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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/612,084	07/01/2003	Donald J. Curry	11730	5844
7590 OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC P.O. BOX 19928 ALEXANDRIA, VA 22320			EXAMINER DHINGRA, PAWANDEEP	
		ART UNIT 2625	PAPER NUMBER MAIL DATE 11/15/2007	DELIVERY MODE PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/612,084	CURRY ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Pawandeep S. Dhingra	2625

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 24 August 2007.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1,2,8,11,12 and 19 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) 3-7,9,10,13-18 and 20 is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____. |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>8/24/2007</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____. |

DETAILED ACTION

- This action is responsive to the following communication: Amendment after non-final rejection filed on 08/24/2007.
- Claims 1-20 are pending.

Response to arguments

Applicant's arguments, see page 6, filed 08/24/2007, with respect to the rejection(s) of claim(s) 1-2, 11-12, and 19 under Metois have been fully considered and are persuasive. Therefore, the rejection has been withdrawn. However, upon further consideration, a new ground(s) of rejection is made in view of Schweid.

Examiner Notes

Examiner cites particular columns and line numbers in the references as applied to the claims below for the convenience of the applicant. Although the specified citations are representative of the teachings in the art and are applied to the specific limitations within the individual claim, other passages and figures may apply as well. It is respectfully requested that, in preparing responses, the applicant fully consider the references in entirety as potentially teaching all or part of the claimed invention, as well as the context of the passage as taught by the prior art or disclosed by the examiner.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless --

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

2. Claims 1-2, 8, 11-12, and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Schweid et al., US 6,549,658.

Re claim 1, Schweid discloses a method for determining a screen frequency and magnitude estimation of an image signal (see figures 2-5), the method comprising the operations of: (a) estimating in one or more channels each exhibiting different sensitivities for providing high quality instantaneous halftone frequency and magnitude estimation (see figures 2-10; column 1, line 14-column 5, line 27); (b) combining one or more instantaneous halftone frequency estimation from independent channels to create frequency magnitude estimation (see figures 2-10; column 1, line 14-column 5, line 27). (See also column 26, lines 39-58).

Re claim 2, Schweid further discloses a channel exhibiting highest sensitivity derives the frequency estimate (see figures 2-7; column 2, line 1-column 5, line 27).

Re claim 8, Schweid further discloses wherein operation (a) comprises the operations of combining the outputs of one or more frequency detection modules and producing the frequency magnitude estimate signal (see figures 2-7), via a magnitude estimate module included in the screen estimate module (see figures 2-7, 10, column 1, line 14-column 5, line 27).

Re Claim 11, claim 11 recites identical features, as claim 1, except claim 11 is a system claim. Thus, arguments made for claim 1 are applicable for claim 11.

Re Claim 12, claim 12 recites identical features, as claim 2, except claim 12 is a system claim. Thus, arguments made for claim 2 are applicable for claim 12.

Re Claim 19, claim 19 recites identical features, as claims 11-12, and is rejected on the same grounds.

Allowable Subject Matter

Regarding claims 3-7, 9-10, 13-18, and 20, are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: The prior art of record does not disclose, teach, or suggest the claimed inventions of (in combination with all other limitations in the claims), detecting extrema in an image signal and a second filter out signal via a min-max detector included in each of frequency detection modules as set forth in claim 3. And operations of sub-sampling

and dual interpolation as set forth in claim 7. And the operation of processing the contrast signal, the frequency estimate signal and the frequency estimate magnitude signal to produce the control signal which includes information regarding which of the filter output signals are to be blended and the proportion of blending as set forth in claim 9. Claims 4-6 and 10 are dependent upon claim 3, and 9 respectively, and further limit the claimed invention. Claims 13-18, and 20 are apparatus claims and recite the same features as method claims 3-10.

Conclusion

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

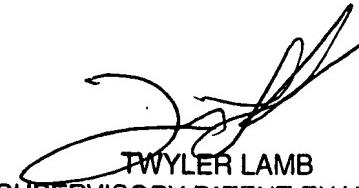
Contact Information

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Pawandeep S. Dhingra whose telephone number is 571-270-1231. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F, 9:30-7:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Twyler Lamb can be reached on 571-272-7406. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Pd
November 8, 2007


TWYLER LAMB
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER